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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/002,356

10/30/2001

Mark D. Seaman

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

HUYNH, BA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2179

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/31/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/002,356

**Applicant(s)**

SEAMAN ET AL.

**Examiner**

Ba Huynh

**Art Unit**

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/7/07 has been entered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The amended limitations “*automatically separate non-time stamped media elements and automatically place the non-time stamped media elements at the beginning or end timeline location according to control setting*”. The spec merely suggests that non-time stamped elements can be separated and be placed at the beginning or the end of the timeline but fails to provide a detailed description of the automatic separation, e.g., by which way such a function is being performed and by which means. The spec also fails to provide detail description regarding the control setting for placing the non-time stamped at the beginning or the end of the timeline. The spec further fails to provide detailed description for the limitation “*sorting identified media elements according to selected control settings*”.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-17, 42-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Independent claims 1, 14, 42 recite “A computer readable storage medium, having stored thereon a program for...” The computer readable storage medium, as disclosed in the specification, can be paper (the spec, page 9, lines 17-21). Printed matter is subjected for copyright protection and is not patent statutory subject matter.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent application publication 7,325,199 (Reid) in view of US patent application publication 2004/0268224 (Balkus et al).

- As for claims 1, 13, 14, 18, 28, 35, 38, 42, 45: Reid teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus usable in a general purpose computer system (fig. 3)

for composing a multimedia presentation from a plurality of media elements, the plurality of media elements including audio media elements and image elements (5:34-41), determine at least a control setting including the duration of time for displaying at least one still image in an initial representation (7:31-36, 8:4-9), automatically overlap media elements on a same image track (18:3-23) that were recorded contemporaneously and media elements with changed time stamps that overlap time stamps of other element (7:36-42, 17:57-18:2), automatically compose the initial presentation by sorting identified media elements according to selected control setting, the initial presentation is based in part on the duration time for the at least one still image and the time stamp of the media element (i.e, the sorting is done automatically as the media element are in time-based elements, 20:17-20). Reid fails to clearly teach that the media elements include time-stamped and non-time-stamped elements. However in the same field of video editing, Balkus et al teach time-stamped and non-time-stamped elements (0032). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Balkus' teaching of time-stamped and non-time-stamped elements to Reid. Motivation of the combining is for enrichment of the media sources. In light of Reid's teaching of project planning, the non-time-stamped elements (such as the title, logo, still images) can be placed at the beginning or the end of the timeline.

- As for claims 2, 15, 19: An initial presentation is displayed (Reid's fig 6; Balkus' fig 7B).

- As for claims 3, 5, 7, 16, 20, 40, 47: Reid's figs 6A-C disclose the timelines having image tracks and sound tracks showing the order of media elements in the timelines. See also Balkus' fig. 7B.
- As for claims 4, 6, 17, 21: Reid's figs 6A-C and 43 and Balkus' fig 7B disclose the timelines having image tracks and sound tracks showing the order of media elements in the timelines.
- As for claims 8, 23: The presentation based in part on the duration time of at least one still image (Reid's 8:4-11, 17:57-18:2; Balkus' fig, 7B).
- As for claims 9, 32: The presentation is edited in part by the user (Reid's fig 5; Balkus' 0051, 0053).
- As for claims 10, 11, 25, 26: Graphic and text elements can be added to the presentation (Reid's 1:25-29; Balkus' 0053).
- As for claims 12, 27: The control setting can be reset by the user (Reid's 14:11-15:47; Balkus' 0048).
- As for claims 22, 24: The editing including reordering the images (Reid's 17:15-30; Balkus' 0051, 0053).
- As for claim 29: Media elements are automatically placed in chronological order (Balkus' 0051, 0053, fig 7B).
- As for claims 30, 31, 39, 46: As image elements are chronologically ordered, associated audio elements are also placed in the same order (Balkus' fig 7B).
- As for claim 33: An image line is displayed in coordination with display of the presentation (Reid's figs 6; Balkus' fig 7B).

- As for claim 34: An audio line is displayed in coordination with display of the presentation (Balkus' fig 7B ).
- As for claims 36, 43: The control settings are user-selected control settings (Reid's 14:11-15:47; Balkus' 0048).
- As for claims 37, 44: The control settings include duration that still images are to be displayed (Reid's 14:11-15:47; Balkus' 0048).
- As for claims 41, 48: Image editing includes editing the initial presentation to create a final presentation (Reid's 17:15-30; Balkus' 0051, 0053).
- As for claims 49: The time of recording is based on a time stamp associated with the media elements (Reid's 7:32-36, 8:6-11; Balkus' 0051, 0053, fig 7B).
- As for claim 50: The user-selected images are arranged in chronological order (Reid's figs 6; Balkus' fig 7B ).
- As for claim 51: Media elements can be bounded together, i.e., individual photograph can be bound with another photograph or an audio element. Media element can also be bound together to create special effect. Bounding of the elements is based on the timestamp of the element (Reid's 7:39-42, 9:59-62, 19:22-35; Balkus' fig 7B ).
- As for claim 52: Time attribute is specified by the user. Thus a media element in a bound sequence can be unbound by re-specifying the time (19:46-60; Balkus' 0041).

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive in view of the above new ground of rejection.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ba Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4138. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ba Huynh  
Primary Examiner  
AU 2179  
3/28/08

/Ba Huynh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2179